



Shirley Magnett

Speaker 1:

Oh, yeah.

Speaker 2:

Go ahead. Start speaking.

Shirley Magnett:

Now?

Speaker 2:

Yeah.

Shirley Magnett:

Good morning. My name is Shirley Magnett, and I am the child of Anton M. Ramos and Louise B. Ramos. My father came from St. Nicholas Kiver, and my mother's family came from Canada.

In 1954, I was living at 17 Holland Street in New Bedford. At that time, I was only 12 years old. My father had a shack, which was like a little village down by the waterfront, which they kept their fishing stuff in each shed. And there were about 10 sheds, so there was about 10 men who had these sheds. And they kept their boats down there at the Acushnet River too.

I also used to go down there to go fishing with my father. It was like a village called Portugee Navy Yard.

At the time, on August 25th, 1954, which I was only 12, as I repeat, the weather didn't look very good. All of a sudden from the river, the water started to come up, and I lived only two blocks away. And seeing this, I suddenly, the water was up to the house, it surrounded the house, and next thing you know, it was coming into my house. We had to go up on the second floor.

The water was terrible. It went up to almost up to Acushnet Avenue.

So as I repeat, we had to go up on the second floor and we stayed there a good part of the day. After a while, I would say maybe two or three hours, the water started to subside, and when we came downstairs to our home, it was full of mud and some water that was left.

My house was awful. When the water was gone, I went outside. There was so much wood all over the place, a few boats. The place looked awful. You wouldn't have believed that it was the neighborhood.

So as I get back to Portugee Navy Yard, my father lost his shed and so did all the men. Portugee Navy Yard was a wonderful place. Also, my church, Our Lady of Assumption, was also flooded too.

I will never forget that day, August 25th, 1954. Thank you. Shirley Magnett. [inaudible 00:04:27].